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THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor. | DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY—TO BEE-CULTURE. | Weekly, $1.00 a Year. Sample Free.

VOL. XXXI. CHICAGO, ILL., JUNE 29, 1893. NO. 26.

Please Don't send to us for bee-supplies, as we do not deal in them, and your order, if sent to us, must necessarily be delayed in filling. Just patronize those supply dealers who advertise in our columns, and you will thus please us most. We shall be glad to furnish you any bee-book and the BEE JOURNAL, but when it comes to supplies—well, we are not "in it."

Volume XXXI is completed with this number of the BEE JOURNAL. Another milestone on the way to higher usefulness and greater excellence in progressive bee-literature is thus attained. In all of its departments in the volume just finished we have endeavored to advance at least a little over the standard already reached in the previous volumes. Whether or not our object has been fully gained can only be answered by those who from week to week have perused its pages.

In the future, as in the past, we shall endeavor to press onward, ever striving to present to our appreciative readers those things which shall most aid them to make the greatest possible success of the keeping of bees.

With gratitude to all for their hearty co-operation; with the earnest hope that this year we may yet have a splendid honey crop; and with an eye single to the highest interest of all deserving bee-keepers the world over, we close the present volume, and turn with feelings of pleasure and encouragement to the fair and unsullied pages of Volume XXXII.

Mr. H. D. Cutting, of Tecumseh, Mich., called at the BEE JOURNAL office on Wednesday, June 21st. He was in Chicago looking after the apiarian exhibit to be made at the World's Fair by the State of Michigan. If any man can get up a creditable display for the small sum of $500, Bro. Cutting is just that man. What a pity that the great State of Michigan couldn't have done better for the horticulturist's best friends—the honey-bees! It shows that bee-keepers have not as yet sufficiently insisted upon the great value bee-culture is to the world. It is high time that each bee-keeper appoint himself a committee of one on education, and then see to it that everybody he meets shall understand something of the value of bees to the farmer, gardener and fruit-grower.

The Foul Brood Cure, as practiced by Mr. Wm. McEvoy, the Foul Brood Inspector for Ontario, Canada, will be given in the BEE JOURNAL for next week. Mr. McEvoy has been unavoidably delayed in preparing it for publication. He is a very busy man, indeed, and those who have so long waited for the description of his method of curing foul brood, will kindly excuse him. The article came just a *little* too late for this issue, or we would have given it this week.

"Bees and Honey"—see page 803.

Bro. Doolittle's picture we notice is in the *Farm and Home* for June 15th. It is a nice likeness, and the biographical sketch accompanying it is "short and sweet"—it couldn't well help being "sweet" when it is about a honeyman. It says that besides producing honey, Bro. D. "has a garden and a small farm of 29 acres to care for, and runs a shop and steam-engine, making sections, hives and honey-crates." It shouldn't have been Doo*little*, but Doo*much*, or something equally as consistent, for Bro. D. does a great amount of hard work, both physical and literary.

A Complete Index will be found in this number of the BEE JOURNAL, to which we call your attention. It contains the subjects written upon, the names of the writers, and a list of the illustrations of Volume XXXI. The index, as we present it, serves as a key to unlock the treasures contained in another volume of the old AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL which is now closed. We trust that all have preserved the numbers from week to week, as they will form a valuable book of reference upon the subject of bee-culture.

Dr. Miller's Face is shown in that great agricultural weekly, the *American Farmer*, for June 15th, published at Washington, D. C. We are glad to see our famous bee-keepers receiving the attention due them at the hands of the publishers of farm papers; and no one is more deserving than our own Dr. C. C. Miller. Living in Illinois, as he does, we are going to claim the biggest share of the Doctor, though no doubt the whole continent will say he belongs to them. But then, he is big-hearted enough to go all around, so there won't be any chance to differ much over him.

The Biographies and portraits of bee-keepers have been kept up during the whole of the present volume of the BEE JOURNAL. That they have been appreciated by our readers is fully shown by numerous letters of approval received the past six months. We hope to continue the biographical department throughout the year, if not longer, in order that we all may become better acquainted with those who have helped to place the industry of bee-keeping on the high plain which it occupies to-day.

Bro. G. E. Seelman, of Westbury Station, N. Y., we are very sorry to learn, has suffered the loss of his loved wife. In reply to a letter written by him to a sympathetic friend, she says: "Weep not, Bro. Seelman; she is waiting and watching for you over there." Here is the letter referred to:

I have just been sorely afflicted. It has pleased our Heavenly Father to take from me and this world my companion and helpmate—as good a wife as man ever was blessed with. It has nearly broken me up, and, I must admit, my faith has been at its lowest ebb. But I must bow to the will of the Almighty, and remember that those He loves He chastises. It came unexpected, and unlooked for.

But I don't know why I should pour out my heart into the ears of a stranger. Yet I can hardly call you a stranger—the kindly words received from you even at the most trifling occasion, have made me look on you as an old acquaintance and friend. In sorrow we seek sympathy; it is but human, so please forgive. G. E. SEELMAN.

We wish to add our word of sympathy for our bereaved brother. How dark and mysterious are God's dealings with his children; and yet many times if we could but comprehend the lessons involved, how it would help us to bear up under trials and afflictions. Let us all remember in prayer those who are bereaved, invoking upon them divine grace and comfort.

Yes, 'tis sad to part with loved ones,
With those we hold most dear;
And yet their lives are bettered
While ours seem left most drear.

But while we mourn and sorrow—
Can scarcely trust God more—
We'll bow in humble waiting
For blessings yet in store.

While those we love are taken,
And we are left to sigh,
We still may live rejoicing—
We'll meet them bye-and-bye.

The Handsomest, as well as the ugliest looking, bee-keeper received a queen-bee as a prize at the late meeting of the South Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, as shown in its report on page 812 of this number of the BEE JOURNAL. We hardly know which to congratulate the more, seeing each got a queen. Perhaps it would be just as well to "call it even."

It's a Pity that a man cannot eat good advice; he gets so much of it free.

GENERAL QUESTIONS.

In this department will be answered those questions needing IMMEDIATE attention, and such as are not of sufficient special interest to require replies from the 25 or more apiarists who help to make "Queries and Replies" so interesting on another page. In the main, it will contain questions and answers upon matters that particularly interest beginners.—ED

Why Did the Bees Swarm Out?

I had a colony of bees to leave for the woods on March 22nd. I opened the hive after they left, and found two frames partly filled with brood, three filled with capped honey, and two frames partly filled with honey. The hive was clean and nice, and there was no moth to be seen. Will Mr. Doolittle please tell why they left? C. L. BOWEN.

Louella, Mo.

The question was referred to Mr. Doolittle, who answers thus:

Such swarming out as the above is something that has baffled our best apiarists for years, and the question has often been raised why bees thus swarm out in early spring, and so far as I have ever seen, always unsatisfactorily answered. The prevailing opinion is that the bees become dissatisfied with their surroundings for some reason, and swarm out, hoping to better their condition. G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Nine or 10 Frames?—Button-Willow.

1. I use the Langstroth hive with 10 frames in the brood-chamber, and 9 frames in the upper story. Could I get more honey if I should use 10 frames above?

2. Is button-willow a good honey-plant? T. W. WHEELER.

Menardville, Texas.

ANSWERS—1. If the two stories are of the same size, then 9 frames will give a little more room for each frame than 10, and as the spaces left between the combs will probably be of the same size whether 9 or 10 frames be used, having one less space with 9 frames ought to allow room for a little more honey. That doesn't say that the same number of bees will put more honey in a season in the 9 frames simply because there is more room there, but if you wait till the story is full each time before extracting, you are sure that you will have less labor in extracting 9 than ten, with the possibility of more honey. So far as the work of the bees is concerned, when left to themselves they seem to prefer to have the outside combs, which are used solely for storing, a little thicker than the brood-combs, and they will have less capping to do on the 9 than the ten. Some of this is theory, but you will probably find in actual practice that those who have tried the 9 above and 10 below, have not gone back to 10 above.

2. Ignorance prevents an answer as to the value of button-willow, but it is pretty safe to say that any of the willows are good for both honey and pollen. Perhaps some of our readers will tell us about button-willow.

Why Was the Queen "Balled?"

Will you please tell me why my bees "balled" their queen? I opened a hive of my best Italians, and found the queen in a ball of bees as large as a teacup. The queen was a young and prolific one. I found two queen-cells started. I caged the queen and laid the cage on top of the frames, and the bees clustered on the cage in hard knots.

Bishop Hill, Ills. G. E. NELSON.

ANSWER—It is no easy matter to tell why bees do many things. This balling a queen sometimes, when there seems to be no occasion for it, is one of the puzzles. Sometimes a queen will be balled after you have handled her, especially if you drop her near the entrance. The smell of your fingers left upon the queen may have something to do with it,

When a queen is about played out, the bees may ball her, seeming to be dissatisfied with a queen which does not do better work.

Sometimes the bees ball a queen to protect her, when they are disturbed. This might be the solution of your problem, but those two queen-cells rather look as if they were getting ready to supersede her. Although she might be "young and prolific," yet for some reason her prolificness might be about at an end, and the bees seem to foreknow this, preparing queen-cells and maltreating the queen. All things considered, this seems the most plausible answer to your question. After all, it is only a guess, and it is doubtful if you can have a positive answer.

Have You Read that wonderful book Premium offer on page 803?

J. W. ROUSE.

Perhaps among all the Missouri bee-keepers none is so prominent as Mr. J. W. Rouse, in the town of Mexico.

In the June *Progressive Bee-Keeper* (which, by the way, is quite consistent with the front part of its name) we find a good portrait and biographical sketch of Mr. Rouse, the latter of which we have this week taken the liberty to copy for the benefit of our readers. It was written by Mr. W. S. Dornblaser, who writes as one very intimately acquainted with Mr. R. Here is the sketch referred to:

Mr. J. W. Rouse was born in Monroe county, Mo., on Jan. 9, 1852, and is, therefore, in his 42nd year. When quite young he exhibited and developed a mechanical genius, and in after life took up a pursuit in which he could make some use of what seemed to him to be a natural talent.

He was married to Miss Williamson, in his native county, at the age of 20 years, and after his marriage he settled down to conducting a general repair shop on wood and iron work. As this business increased, it naturally led him into the manufacture of wagons, buggies, etc., finishing them complete, as he was an adept in all branches of mechanical skill necessary for this work.

While engaged in this business a natural fondness for honey led him into keeping a few bees. Once started in this industry, he very soon became an enthusiast. His enthusiasm was of that kind which "sticks," and in all the years that he has devoted to this profession, it has never lagged, but has led him on, on, on, step by step, until now he stands among the foremost bee-keepers in the State of Missouri. It led him gradually to abandon his old business, and more and more into the manufacture of various apiarian supplies. It led him to observe closely the necessities of his new pets, the best methods of supplying these needs, and then the result. It led him fully to abandon his old business, and embark wholly in and devote his whole time to the development of his apiary, and the industry he loved so well.

Such enthusiasm as Mr. Rouse displayed is commendable, provided it is not allowed to sway the individual of whom it has possession, instead of simply firing him with an energy to delve to the bottom, and climb to the top on the knowledge the delving revealed. In him it was happily held in check by a disposition to observe closely all things that presented themselves, to argue from cause to effect, and profit by the results of the argument. Thus his enthusiasm became a benefit, instead of a curse, as it often does, if, as above stated, it is allowed to sway the individual of whom it has possession. But, in Mr. Rouse, it was not satisfied with bringing benefits to him solely. If anything, Mr. R. is not selfish, and all the knowledge gained, the facts gleaned, the causes revealed, and effects pointed out, must be given to the world.

One of the things that early presented themselves to his mind was the fact that outside of those who actually kept bees, practically little or absolutely nothing was known of the profession. Not only this, but that much of what the world was supposed to know, was entirely erroneous, absolutely unfounded, and often actually ludicrous.

Another condition also presented itself to him. It was that many who were actually engaged in keeping bees, were bound by old methods, and knew nothing of movable-frame hives, or any of the advanced methods of handling them.

It has been his aim to correct, as far as in his power, the mistaken impressions upon the minds of those who were held by old, worn-out and impractical methods. He believes, and in a great measure, very truly, that many of the drawbacks, and much of the opposition to the industry, came from a lack of knowledge, not among bee-keepers, but among non-bee-keepers; that literature is wanted, not so much to educate and enlighten practical bee-keepers, but to instruct the mass of people who do not, and possibly never expect to, keep bees, as well as the novice, and the box-hive, hollow-log and nail-keg man. This conviction was always prominently before him, and in the several years in which he was engaged to lecture on apiculture in the farmers' institutes held by the

State Board of Agriculture, he devoted himself almost entirely to this issue.

He has contributed considerable to the literature of his profession. Quite a number of his articles found their way into the various bee-papers, as well as the agricultural papers, but the work that brings him most prominently before the people, is "The Amateur Bee-Keeper," a neat and tasty little volume intended especially for the novice, the amateur and beginner, as well as those who are not engaged in bee-keeping. All this writing bears the stamp of one who is thoroughly conversant on what he is talking about, and at the same time

J. W. ROUSE.

bears that modest, unassuming style characteristic of the man.

He was one of the organizers and promoters of the Missouri State Bee-Keepers' Association, and served as its Secretary during the first two years of its existence. It is in convention work that the innate modesty of the man, coupled with his natural social geniality, as well as his quiet conviction of knowing what he knows, and being able to establish his knowledge, that makes him a "wheel hoss" in the work. His re-election to the office of Secretary was a deserved compliment to his first year's service.

A man of earnest Christian principles and thorough religious convictions, he takes his Christianity with him wherever he goes, uses it as a factor in his business, and at all times lets his light shine that the world may know what he is, and where he stands.

CONDUCTED BY

Mrs. Jennie Atchley,

GREENVILLE, TEXAS.

Good Report of the New Crop.

MRS. ATCHLEY:—My report for the spring crop is only 67 pounds per colony. I have 800 colonies. But the quality is as fine as I ever saw.

D. M. EDWARDS.

Uvalde, Tex., June 12, 1893.

Report of the South Texas Bee-Keepers' Convention.

MRS. ATCHLEY:—Prospects in South Texas are favorable for a large yield of honey this year, especially from the river-bottom apiaries. Our convention report is short, but we hope to have a better programme at our next meeting.

T. H. MULLIN.

Oakland, Tex., June 6, 1893.

The report referred to by Mr. Mullin is as follows:

SOUTH TEXAS BEE-CONVENTION.

The second regular meeting of the South Texas Bee-Keepers' Association was held at Wharton, Tex., on May 18, 1893. The convention was called to order by Pres. W. O. Victor. As T. H. Mullin, the Secretary, was absent, Mr. H. J. Moses was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*

Owing to the inclemency of the weather previous to the meeting, there was not a full attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The roll call showed 16 present. Several new members were

enrolled. A communication was read from Mrs. Jennie Atchley, of Greenville, Texas. Letters were read from Messrs. J. H. Mullin & Son, of Oakland, Mr. J. W. Eckman, of Richmond, and Messrs. W. R. Graham & Son, of Greenville, wishing success to the Association, and tendering their regrets for not being able to attend.

A five-banded untested queen was donated by Mrs. Jennie Atchley, to be presented to the most handsome bee-keeper present; upon ballot the honor fell to Mr. R. A. Armstrong, Jr.

Mr. W. O. Victor also donated a three-banded untested queen for the ugliest bee-keeper present; upon ballot, Judge M. H. Sanders was awarded the prize.

There were on exhibition two patterns of improved bee-hives, one made by W. R. Graham, and the other is called the "Root dovetailed hive," presented by W. O. Victor. The preference was given to the last-named.

The opinion was in general discussion, that the season had been unfavorable to bee-culture—the weather too cool, and too much rain for a full out-put of the honey product. A return of dry weather induces the hope of a better prospect for a large yield.

The convention adjourned to meet again at the apiary of Mr. W. O. Victor, of Wharton, on the first Tuesday in May, 1894. All bee-keepers are invited to attend and become members of the Association.

H. J. MOSES, *Sec. pro tem.*

The Honey-Plants of Northern Texas, and How to Utilize Them.

Read at the late Texas State Convention

BY DR. WM. R. HOWARD.

(Continued from page 782.)

Milkweed (*anantherix connivens*, Feay), commences flowering early in May, with a succession of flowers up to the middle of June, and sometimes later. It furnishes an abundance of honey of an inferior quality, being strong and pungent. It yields no pollen; its pollen cohering in masses, called *pollinia*, are suspended by a thread-like beak, in the sides of the connate mass of anthers, which are five-angled, truncate, opening by five longitudinal fissures, which, when the flower opens and comes to maturity, release the *pollinia*, throwing them out, and being furnished with wings, so to speak, and a heavy viscid beak will scarcely escape the cup-like flower without coming in contact with the stigma.

These pollen-masses are of great inconvenience to the bees, as in visiting the flower for the nectar, their feet come in contact with these *pollinia*, and by the viscid fluid they become firmly attached; and in going from flower to flower, every pair that touches, sticks. As soon as the viscid liquid dries, it becomes brittle, and soon falls off. They do not kill the bees, as asserted by some, but I am satisfied that bees are considerably disabled for the time being, by these unnatural and clumsy appendages, and I am of the opinion that bees would do as well, or perhaps better, without this plant; but where it is to be found, bees will invariably visit it, notwithstanding the deleterious consequences; but, were it not for this plant, some seasons, many apiaries would starve out, as it stands the drouth well, and is often the only honey-plant we have.

Persimmon (*diospyros virginiana*) commences to bloom early in May, with a succession of flowers for rather more than a month, early varieties sometimes have half-grown fruit by the time the later varieties are in bloom. It affords an excellent quality of honey; in localities where there are a few acres of these trees, bees will become rich in stores in a very short time.

Black sumac (*rhus*) commences to bloom about the first of June, with a succession of flowers for one month; white sumac 10 or 15 days later, both furnishing honey and pollen of fair quality.

Cottton-plant (*gossypium herbacum*) commences to bloom about June 15th, with a succession of flowers until frost, furnishing both pollen and honey. The blossom expands its petals of rich creamy-white, about 10 o'clock a.m. As soon as the flower is open enough, the bees visit it, gathering both pollen and honey; prior to the opening of new flowers, early in the morning, the bees seek the flowers of the day before, which have closed, and are of a pale-red color; diving down outside at the base, and lapping up the delicious nectar, which is no longer necessary for the development of floral organs. Bees gather more honey from this flower after it begins to close, say after 11 o'clock a.m. until 9 a.m. next day, than from the freshly-opened flower, which furnishes mostly pollen. The honey from this plant is dark, like that of buckwheat, but of good flavor, very thick, and granulating shortly after it is extracted.

Jamestown weed (*datura stramonium*),

commonly called "jimson," is visited late in the evening, and very early in the morning, but the bee is unable to procure any honey except from the largest flowers. Several species of wild bees (solitary) enter it, and some species gnaw into the flower at the base, for the purpose of obtaining the abundant supply of nectar which this flower evolves.

Corn (*zea mays*, Linn) tassel yields pollen early, and some honey later on. If the weather is favorable for the reproduction of plant-lice, we may expect them to attack the tassel, making the top leaves sticky and discolored by their dejections. I have seen bees "pile" on the tassel until you could scarcely have seen anything but the bees gathering this "honey-dew." The honey thus obtained is dark, but of very fair flavor.

The entomological history of these plant-lice (*aphids*) is very interesting to the student of nature, and to those who are interested I will refer you to the original article, written by me, in the May number of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, 1880, from which I have drawn largely for the production of this essay. I will mention here that there is another product denominated "honey-dew," which is observable on plants after very dry weather, and consists of extravasation or oozing of the sap from the leaves.

Horsemint (*monarda*). This plant furnishes an excellent quality of honey, equal to white clover, finely flavored; it is the best honey-plant we have; it grows on all our prairies, stands the drouth well, and comes into bloom just when our bees are in their working strength; it blooms rather after the middle of June, and gives a succession of flowers for 1½ months, or rather more than 40 days. We all rejoice when our bees are safely through to the horsemint.

There are several species of this plant here which furnish more or less honey; the most valuable are *M. ciliata* and *M. punctata*. The first mentioned is nearly a month earlier in flowering, though both are valuable honey-plants, and deserve attention in the way of cultivation. I believe some of our apiarists have cultivated horsemint for its honey qualities. It yields no pollen worth mentioning; the anthers project in a direct line with the upper cleft of the flower, dusting its pollen-grains over the body of the visiting bee. Too much cannot be said for horsemint as as honey-plant.

Although I have had no bees for the past nine years, and have had little opportunity to converse with honey-producers in the region where this plant abounds, from general observation I am led to believe that this plant has for years at a time been very scarce, and has not yielded the abundance of honey it once did, and that some seasons it has failed almost entirely.

Pigweed (*chenopodium album*, Linn). This very common weed in fields and gardens, blooms about the first of August, and furnishes an excellent quality of pollen; unimportant as a honey-plant.

(Concluded next week.)

Bees in Florida and Minnesota.

I had much fun with the "Crackers" of Florida the past winter, handling bees in the swamps, and surprised every one by taking a colony out of a gum tree, and in 60 days they filled the hive, stored 60 pounds of nice orange-blossom honey in 1½-pound boxes; and the day before I left (May 5th) they cast a fine swarm. I hived them in a 3-story hive, with room for 60 pounds of comb honey, and expect to find them O. K. on my veranda in front of the house, in November, when I return.

A bee-keeper with 30 colonies there did not get 10 pounds of honey. He says that my bees took all the honey! There is a difference in handling bees properly, or letting them go it alone.

My bees wintered poorly here; 135 days in the cellar. I lost 40 per cent.; the balance hard at work now. Dandelions are the only flowers yet.

C. F. GREENING.

Grand Meadow, Minn., June 10.

Convention Notices.

NORTH CAROLINA.—The Carolina Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its sixth semi-annual meeting on July 20, in Charlotte, N. C., at the Court House, at 10 o'clock a.m. All persons interested in bee-keeping are invited.

Steel Creek, N. C. A. L. BEACH, Sec.

INTERNATIONAL.—The North American Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its 24th annual convention on Oct. 11, 12 and 13, 1893, in Chicago, Ills. Not only is every bee-keeper in America, whether a member of the society or not, invited to be present, but a special invitation is extended to friends of apiculture it every foreign land, FRANK BENTON, Sec.

Washington, D. C.

A Binder for holding a year's numbers of the BEE JOURNAL we mail for only 50 cents; or clubbed with the JOURNAL for $1.40.

Comb Honey at 10c. a Pound, or Extracted at $1 Per Gallon?

Query 877.—Which will pay the better if sold in the home market, comb honey at 10 cents a pound, or extracted honey at $1.00 per gallon?—Georgia.

Extracted.—E. FRANCE.

Extracted.—EUGENE SECOR.

Extracted.—S. I. FREEBORN.

The extracted.—R. L. TAYLOR.

Extracted.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

Extracted honey.—P. H. ELWOOD.

The extracted honey.—M. MAHIN.

I should say extracted, decidedly.—A. J. COOK.

I should think extracted.—C. C. MILLER.

Extracted at $1.00 per gallon.—JAS. A. STONE.

Extracted honey, decidedly.—JAMES A. GREEN.

Extracted, at the price named.—J. H. LARRABEE.

Extracted at $1.00 per gallon.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Extracted at $1.00 per gallon.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

Extracted honey, every time.—EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

Extracted honey, even at 75 cents per gallon.—DADANT & SON.

The extracted article will pay the best at the figures given.—G. W. DEMAREE.

If the bees are well managed, comb honey will pay the best.—J. P. H. BROWN.

Extracted honey, every time; but such are not the conditions in Canada.—R. F. HOLTERMANN.

The extracted. Work your market by giving small bottles of your choicest to prospective customers.—W. M. BARNUM.

A gallon of extracted honey will weigh 12 pounds, and at $1.00 per gallon would be 8⅓ cents per pound. With only 1⅔ cents difference, I should produce only extracted.—C. H. DIBBERN.

Extracted will pay the best at $1.00 per gallon, or 8 cents per pound, as you get more honey, and if you can sell your extracted as readily at 8 cents as your comb honey at 10 cents, by all means produce extracted.—MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.

Extracted. Honey weighs about 12 pounds to the gallon, and if sold for $1.00 per gallon it would be equal to about 8 cents per pound. Your bees should produce one-half more extracted than comb honey, or, in other words, they would store 12 cents worth of extracted to 10 cents worth of comb honey, at the price you mention.—MRS. J. N. HEATER.

Extracted, by all means, as there is only about 2 cents per pound difference in price. In my own locality I could make it pay better to sell extracted at 6 cents per pound than comb honey at 10 cents. Localities differ, though, in regard to honey-gathering. Some bee-keepers have told me that, taking it all in all, they can do better producing comb honey where both sell at the same price.—J. E. POND.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY.

Time and place of meeting.

1893.

July 20.—Carolina, at Charlotte, N. C.
A. L. Beach, Sec., Steel Creek, N. C.

Oct. 11, 12, 13.—North American (International), at Chicago, Ills.
Frank Benton, Sec., Washington, D. C.

☞ **In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of the time and the place of each future meeting.—THE EDITOR.**

North American Bee-Keepers' Association

PRESIDENT—Dr. C. C. Miller....Marengo, Ills.
VICE-PRES.—J. E. Crane.....Middlebury, Vt.
SECRETARY—Frank Benton, Washington, D. C.
TREASURER—George W. York...Chicago, Ills.

National Bee-Keepers' Union.

PRESIDENT—Hon. R. L. Taylor..Lapeer, Mich.
GEN'L MANAGER—T. G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.

Your Neighbor Bee-Keeper—have you asked *him* or *her* to subscribe for the BEE JOURNAL? Only $1.00 will pay for it for a whole year. And, besides, *you* can have Newman's book on "Bees and Honey" as a premium, for sending us two new subscribers. Don't neglect your neighbor! See page 803.

Successful Bee-Keeping Not All in Hives.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

"Which hive had I best use in order to secure a large yield of honey?" is a question often asked me, just as though the honey crop was entirely dependent upon the hive used, while an hour's talk with beginners will show that many seem to think that large yields of honey are owing entirely to the style of hive used, but this is not so. Hives have something to do with the yield of honey, of course, but nothing as compared with a thorough knowledge of the location we are in, and an understanding of how to apply that knowledge so as to secure the bees at the right time, that the yield of honey may be gathered to the best advantage when it comes.

The securing of the maximum number of bees just at the time the honey harvest is at its best, counts more toward a paying crop than all else combined in apiculture, and explains why one colony in the yard will give a large yield of honey while many of the others which we supposed were better than this, give very little.

Again, the manipulation of hives has more to do with the surplus crop than the hives themselves, for no matter how good the hive is, if the combs are never touched or the surplus room put on at the right time, all may count for naught to the would-be bee-keeper, and the flowers bloom in vain as far as any profit to us is concerned. In order that others should not get the idea that the hives used and recommended by our best and most successful apiarists would give them thousands of pounds of honey without work, I have often said that if any one could not spend the time on the bees which they required, they had better keep out of the business.

I know of no hive with which a man can secure large results by simply folding his hands and letting the bees work. Such is not the economy of nature, and in order to succeed in any calling in life we must put energy, industry and perseverance into our work, if we would reap a harvest worth the gathering. To work hard from twelve to sixteen hours each day, at mere physical labor, is not all that is required, either, as many assert by their actions, if not by words; but there must be an energy and push, mentally, sufficient to grapple with all of the unsolved problems which are in the way of our success. If these are all combined, there is no reason why bee-keeping will not give as good results for what is expended upon it as any other calling in life, even though it is not so supposed by the majority of the world.

I wish to leave the impression on the minds of the readers of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL that large yields of honey can only be secured where there are large numbers of bees in time for the honey harvest, and the securing of the bees at that time is the secret of success. That more bees can be obtained at the right time by the use of the Gallup frame, together with a proper manipulation of the same, is my belief, and is the only reason that I adopted that style of hive, for other hives give many good points not obtained in the Gallup, but none of which are really great enough to make good their loss on this one point of preference this hive gives.

However, I have done nearly as well with the Langstroth hive and frame, and did I have 40 or more colonies on that style of frame, or in many good hives of the present day, I should hesitate some time before I made a change, trying first to see if a thorough knowledge regarding their manipulation and adapting this to my field, would not give success. If it should prove that the hive was not at all adapted to my locality, then of course I would make a change; but to change hives every time something new comes along, with the thought that with this I should succeed, is not the proper thing to do.

"Prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good," is as trite a saying to-day as it ever was.

Borodino, N. Y.

Bicycles are getting to be very common now-a-days. We have two for sale, and any one wanting a bargain in a good bicycle, should write to the office of the BEE JOURNAL.

Notes from the "Oak Leaf Apiaries" in California.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY S. L. WATKINS.

We have had a great abundance of late spring rains, and these, in the southern part of the State, are the forerunners of a heavy secretion of nectar. Bee-keeping during these late spring rains is a time for watchfulness, and bees must be watched very carefully, as they may starve. It is not the wintering of bees that is difficult in this climate, but in bringing them safely through the spring months, during the rainy spells. As they are all breeding very heavily at this season of the year, they consume honey with great rapidity, and a colony running short, will starve in a few hours. Almost every spring I have occasion to feed part of my bees for a few days, and sometimes all of them. But it pays well, for the honey that they consume at this time of the year is simply a drop in the bucket compared to what they gather later on.

In a late letter from my friend, G. W. Cover, of Downieville, Sierra county, Calif., he furnishes the following interesting items:

"There are probably as many honey-plants in this section as any place in the State; the madrona does not grow here, it is too high for it. The mountain ash grows in abundance, and I have observed the bees working on it; it is usually in the heads of canyons. Among the late honey-plants that flourish here, may be mentioned the spignard, horse-mint, one-eyed daisy, golden-rod, and several varieties of asters. The Oregon grass flourishes here, and is a very good honey-yielder; it is a very early plant; the wild morning-glory yields quite a lot of honey; swamp hellebore is an excellent late honey-plant; black hellebore is a very beautiful plant, and a honey-yielder. The bees are working on maple, wild plum, and many other shrubs and various wild flowers. There will be no swarming here for sometime yet.

"In your letter you speak of the non-swarming plan; we are not bothered with much swarming here. If you go high enough up in the mountains, bees will not swarm enough to build up an apiary.

"The Carniolans are the best bees for this section.

"Yes, I think that the bee-business is looking up; the new converts will find that it will take care and work to make money at the bee-business. I expect the Sierras will be a grand bee-ranch some day.

"I have not tried the fixed frames; I have just made a hive to try them this year. I shall run for comb honey altogether this season. I took the premium on honey last season, at the Sierra and Plumas Fair, and ran against the celebrated Reno honey. G. W. COVER."

As friend Cover mentions, it would indeed be hard to find any section of country in the world, where there is such a diversity of nectar-secreting plants; the beautiful and exquisite manzanitas are wonderful nectar secreters, and did they bloom in July instead of in early spring, the yield from this source would be immense; as it is, they bloom during the rainy season, and bees have only a partial show in gathering honey from this source.

The Sierra bee-pastures are of unrivalled and wondrous beauty during their blooming season; on all sides every hue and color imaginable is presented, while the air is spiced with the pungent odor of myriads of blooming plants and trees; at these locations can be seen vast stretches of lupines of various colors, larkspurs, callinsia, mountain mint, paradise plant, falocio, violets, several species of wild clover, roses, and several species of clanathus; the clanathus in certain seasons are great nectar-yielders; the Sierra Mountain lilies can hardly be termed nectar-secreting plants, still I think that they furnish an abundance of pollen; these wild lilies are of such wondrous and surpassing beauty that a slight description will not come amiss.

The Sierra white lily possesses very large flowers of a dazzling snowy whiteness, which are spiced with a delicous fragrance. The Sierra red lily is also large in size, with a glowing caffery red blossom, which is extremely beautiful. The Sierra snow-plant is also worthy of mention. In its flowering season it throws up a spike of deep, brilliant red flowers, which are so intense in color as to almost glisten and sparkle in the light; this plant is undoubtedly the most beautiful in the floral kingdom. It has been my experience that almost all plants possessing a fragrance, are great nectar-yielders.

I have found that by giving bees at least two frames of combs to build out in the upper story of a hive, and by extracting frequently, swarming can be kept down to a great extent. As I am now working for honey instead of increase of bees, so far I have been very

successful, and my colonies are all now vigorous, powerful colonies, and I think that I can easily manage them without the issue of a single swarm. Too much swarming means very little honey, unless they secure a large fall crop.

Grizzly Flats, Calif., May 20, 1893.

Why Farmers and Horticulturists Should be Bee-Keepers.

Read at the Illinois State Convention

BY C. P. DADANT.

In order to succeed in apiculture, it is not altogether necessary to be a specialist, and a farmer can keep a few hives of bees as well as he can successfully grow a small orchard or cultivate a truck-garden. The fact is, we usually find that the most successful farmers do not neglect any of the smaller branches of their industry, though some are more proficient in one line than in another.

The greatest draw-back to the keeping of bees by farmers, horticulturists, and country people in general, is the fear of stings. The majority of them imagine that the handling of bees is a difficult feat, and can only be performed by those who have a special gift in that direction. The recent progress in the management and handling of bees is unknown to the masses. Yet it is a fact that with all the latest improvements at our command—improved bee-smokers, bee-veils, movable frames, and the latest implement, the bee-escape—there is so little danger of being stung that it takes only a little determination to successfully handle a limited number of colonies.

Instead of saying, Why should farmers keep bees, we ought to say, Why should they not keep bees? There is probably not one farmer's family in fifty that get all the honey they can consume, and on every farm there are thousands of pounds of honey going to waste annually for want of bees to harvest it. Ten colonies of bees and an outlay of implements not exceeding $25.00, with ordinary management, will be sufficient to gather all the honey a family can consume. According to our own experience, the product of 10 colonies of bees in this State, is, on an average, 50 pounds each annually.

Very little time is required for the manipulations of this number of hives. With large hives, and the extracting method, the actual labor is reduced to a few hours. When the bees have been properly put into winter quarters, they need no attention till the first days of March. Then one short visit, each month, during the Spring, to ascertain whether they have queens, and whether the stores are sufficient to permit them to rear brood plentifully, and they will be safely carried to the time of harvest.

With extracting supers, the job of putting on the honey-boxes is a matter of less than an hour. Then the extraction of the crop will require perhaps a half day. The rest of the manipulation, including putting the hives in proper shape for winter, need not require more than a couple of hours at every visit.

The labor is indeed very light. To know what is wanted, and to do it in time, is the secret of success. To this we might add that the bee-business is a business of details, and that he who succeeds best is he who studies it most, and does not rely more on his own ideas than on the advice of experienced writers. More blunders have been made by ignorance, or by too much self-reliance, in this business, than in any branch of farming that I know of.

It is perhaps well to add that the bees are a useful factor in the fertilization of many blossoms. Their help is invaluable to the horticulturist, and it is a known fact to all observers that the season in which the fruit-trees bear the most plentiful harvest, are those in which the bees have worked on them with the most diligence. The fact is easily explained, and is in accordance with what the naturalists tell us of the structure of the blossoms, and of the fertilization of the pistils. To fertilize the flowers and make them bear fruit it is necessary that a little of the pollen be scattered on the pistil, and it is proven that this pollen is more efficient when not furnished by the same blossom or even by the same tree. So the bee is a natural agent in the reproduction of many trees and plants, and prevents in-and-in breeding from being carried to excess in all the blossoms on which it works.

The assertion of many people, that the bees are injurious to sound fruit is a gross error, and if more people kept bees they would soon ascertain that the bees feed on fruit only when it is already damaged, and when no other and better sweet is to be found. They aim to save that which goes to waste, but always save the best first.

The location of an apiary, on a farm, is an easily solved problem. There is always some corner, in which stock does

not go, sheltered by trees, or orchard, or along some hedge, and on every farm this corner might as well be occupied by bees as by weeds; and if a season comes when the corn-field or the stubble are are overrun by weeds, owing to too much rain or other unfavorable circumstances, the farmer may rejoice in the fact that these same weeds will increase his honey-crop.

Hamilton, Ills.

Non-Swarming —House-Apiaries —Bees in Minnesota.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY BARNETT TAYLOR.

FORESTVILLE, Minn., June 14.

FRIEND YORK:—I have several of my non-swarming hives filled with bees. I wish you could be here and see two swarms with two queens working peaceably and indiscriminately together as one family. I know you would be as much pleased as I am. If the working of two swarms by alternating the working bees from hive to hive every six days to prevent swarming proves profitable, then the plan that has no traps, that uses a hive cheaper than common hives, will "take the cakes."

My new house-apiary is proving even better than expected. The bees in it are far stronger than equally good colonies when put out in the open yard.

The outlook for a good honey crop here, where there are any bees to gather it, is first-class; but the destruction of bees in Minnesota last winter and spring was terrible.

I inclose a letter from my friend Mr. J. L. Gray, of St. Cloud, Minn., which gives an idea of the feeling of bee-keepers here. Perhaps a portion of Mr. Gray's letter would be a valuable lesson to bee-keepers, if published. Mr. Gray is an extensive bee-keeper of long experience. Yours truly,

BARNETT TAYLOR.

As suggested by Mr. Taylor, we publish portions of Mr. Gray's letter:

ST. CLOUD, Minn., June 12, 1893.

FRIEND TAYLOR:—I have read your reports in *Gleanings* and the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and have been much interested in their perusal. I agree with you in all your suggestions. Sealed covers did the mischief for me the same as for you, only to a larger extent. I lost 40 colonies out of 46 with sealed covers, and not more than 3 out of the remaining 6 are worth counting; 30 colonies with cloths with much propolis did not fare much better in this apiary, as there are not more than 6 or 7 that will build up.

In my "Farm apiary," as I call it, I did not lose a single colony out of 66; only 3 were queenless, which I successfully united with others, and the whole apiary is in fine condition.

I have bought 18 colonies in fair condition, at an average cost of $6 each, and can buy more—but I think I had better not, as the prospects for a honey crop are very poor indeed. There is some sort of a caterpillar stripping the basswood of all its foliage, I am told, which, if true, will leave us without much surplus. I shall build up this apiary by hiving many of my first swarms at the Farm apiary in full hives of nice combs, which I have moved up there.

Now, friend Taylor, I think we are about old enough to quit following any suggestions in bee-papers that are contrary to common-sense—like wintering bees without any ventilators, or using sealed covers to condense all the vapor and steam from the bees, to sour the unsealed honey, and give them the diarrhea.

My bees on the farm were put into the cellar on Nov. 12th, as I have always put them in, with simply a clean cloth over the top, and entrance wide open; top and sub-ventilators to the cellar open all winter, and quite a portion of the time one, and sometimes two, of the three doors to the entrance. They were taken out the evening of May 3rd, and had their first flight on the 4th, after a confinement of nearly six months.

I am quite well posted on the condition of bees within a radius of 20 miles, and can safely say that 75 per cent. are dead or worthless. The apiary from which I bought my bees is owned by one of the most slovenly of bee-keepers—did not put the bees into his excuse for a cellar until December, and many of the hives were full of ice and frost. He stripped off the old cloths, put on 7-cent sheeting, a rim 3 inches high filled with oat chaff, and set them in, one on top of the other, three hives high, and took them out the first of April, and had never looked them over till the last of May when I bought mine. There was only one colony dead when he put them out, out of 143 put in.

The combs are as bright as a new cent, and the bees healthy, with no sign of diarrhea on any of the hives.

Very truly yours,

J. L. GRAY.

Perhaps a Case of Bee-Diarrhea —"Pollen Theory."

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY C. W. DAYTON.

On page 586 Mr. J. C. Wallenmeyer asks what was the matter with his bees in the case cited, viz: "The storm blew off the covers, and drenched the outside combs. The next day I saw hundreds of bees dying around, shaking, shining and black, and very large. I suppose they were bloated." In the answer it is suggested that the "shaking" is a symptom of the nameless bee-disease. In my mind this is a genuine case of bee-diarrhea. If the bees had been confined six months, they might have died the same way. I have described this same thing at least four times in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL in the last ten years, and the general class of bee-keepers know just as little about it as if it had not been described at all.

At first the intestines of the bees contained a substance nearly like what is called "dry feces." When the rain came into the hives the bees sipped it up—filled themselves up, or loaded up, rather, with water. This water was cold, the whole hive was cold, in fact just like a man with wet clothing. Did you ever over eat of anything that was easy to ferment. Too large a load is more than the stomach can manage. If you started for the honey-house with 400 pounds of honey on your shoulder, I doubt whether you would ever get there. Much water, a little honey, and a low temperature are bad things. If it happens to operate as a physic, they would not become bloated, but it as often operates upon the former contents of the intestines in exactly the opposite way. Water and honey in a fermenting state are expansive, and if the cork is not firmly driven, it will help itself out.

I once read that fruit canned up cold with honey would keep, so I put up a few cans of strawberries well mixed with honey. In a few days the fruit and honey separated, and fermentation began, and one morning I found the screw cap forced off and driven into the ceiling overhead, and the fruit distributed about the honey-room.

It may be asked why bees sip up this water. It probably ran upon the combs of brood. The instinct of the bees is to keep the hives clean, especially where the brood is reared. Every one wants it neat and clean where they eat and sleep.

A "POLLEN THEORY" PROP.

One of the insurmountable questions in connection with the "pollen theory" was, why the bees did not have diarrhea when they had sugar for food and no pollen. Now I will tell you something you can do, and something you cannot do. You can pour water on a cluster of bees in front of the hive, or into the hive of a new swarm for a week and it will not have a bad effect. Let a swarm be away from their brood ten hours and they can be handled much more peaceably than if they have a little brood.

I have found out this season that I can take a whole load of new swarms a distance of seven or eight miles over rough roads with the entrances all open, and not a dozen bees will come out; but if there is one colony in the load that has one frame of brood, they will come out and run all over all the hives, seat or wagon-box, and make matters very disagreeable in the night, and in the daytime they will hold matters entirely in their own hands. Pollen is nearly as good as brood to make bees protect—it is the wherewith to rear brood. Take the brood and pollen away, and they care very little what to do as soon as their brood is forgotten. In which case they have nothing to protect, and no reason to sip up water. This was the one little prop in the "pollen theory" that held out so well.

Pasadena, Calif.

Samantha at Saratoga.—One of the richest books in genuine humor that has been published for many years, in the English language, is "Samantha at Saratoga," by Miss Marietta Holley. Rev. Dr. Newman, the Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, says of this book:

"I commend 'Samantha at Saratoga' as an antidote for the blues, a cure-all for any kind of imaginary woe, a recreation from mental taxation, a provocation for wholesome laughter, and an inspiration to godliness. It is the bitterest satire sugar-coated with the sweetness of exhilarating fun; it is irony laughing at fashionable folly; it is exalted wit with the scalpel in one hand and the Balm of Gilead in the other. Her personality is intense, her genius immense, her art perfect. She stands alone in her chosen sphere without a rival."

Read our great offer of this book free, on page 773 of last copy of the BEE JOURNAL.

☞ Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

One Hundred Pounds Per Colony.

I started in the spring of 1892 with 24 colonies in box-hives. I transferred them in March to movable-frame hives, and for my trouble I received 2,400 pounds of nice honey by Oct. 1st.

I have taken off this spring 850 pounds up to date, and have a honey-flow at this writing. T. W. WHEELER.

Menardville, Tex., June 1, 1893.

Gathering Honey Fast.

Bees are on a big run of linden, after six weeks of starvation, until no brood was in one hive out of every ten, and after feeding five or six hundred pounds of granulated honey. I lost only a few strong colonies, but had entirely empty hives at harvest time. Prime swarms were hived on full drawn combs the first week in April, and up to the 15th; the same had no brood up to June 1st, when basswood opened, and since which I have never seen bees gather honey as fast, or fill with brood. Those that had bees enough to do so are now full, and many in the sections. I was in doubt, as the bees were too old, and may not hold out, or the honey-flow may continue three to four weeks or more. We will see what all old bees can do.

It would be difficult keeping up with bee-keeping without the "old reliable" AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. G. W. BISTLINE.

Bly, Tex., June 12, 1893.

Packing Bees for Winter, Etc.

After experimenting with sealed covers and upward ventilation of bee-hives for the last seven winters, I have come to the conclusion that to successfully winter bees out-doors, or on the summer stands, the bees must be packed above the brood-nest with some kind of packing material, such as chaff, planer-shavings, or sawdust will do.

The fall of 1892 I packed nearly all of my bees, which was 51 colonies in good condition with sealed covers, with six or eight inches of packing above the sealed covers, to keep out the cold from above, which I was sure it would do, and now for my pay I have 25 empty hives with soiled and moldy combs. Six of the 51 colonies were packed with about six inches of chaff above the brood-nest, with only a cloth between the packing and the frames. These were in 12-frame Langstroth hives, which came through in good condition.

My opinion of the two methods of preparing bees for winter, and the result, is as follows:

Hives with sealed covers will become damp and moldy, the bees will become swollen up with diarrhea, and death will follow, providing the bees do not get frequent flights, but should the bees fly often, they may winter well; and, on the other hand, hives that are packed above the brood-nest with wheat chaff keep dry, and the chaff does not get wet and soggy as does clover and buckwheat chaff.

Do bees injure fruit and grain? A good neighbor has argued that bees do injure fruit-blossoms and buckwheat when in bloom, and so far I have been unable to convince him that he is laboring under a false idea. C. A. BUNCH.

Nye, Ind., June 7, 1893.

Watering Brood in the Non-Swarmer.

About the "Langdon non-swarming device," Mr. J. M. Davis asks on page 689 how the brood left in the closed hive will be supplied with water. The answer might be: Close the entrance of the front, but have a hole bored on the back of the hive; which hole will be easily plugged when required. In that way the working force will still go to the other hive, while the young bees will be able to care for the brood. "MONTREAL SUBSCRIBER."

Results of Wintering in Iowa, Etc.

Bees, on the average, are doing well in this part of Iowa. White clover is just beginning to bloom, and about half of the colonies are in good condition for the honey-flow from clover. We have had a splendid rain, and should the weather continue favorable, I think this part of Iowa will get a good honey-flow from prairie-grass, as Mr. Wilson says that white clover and linden will be nearly a failure this year.

On page 635 is a letter from Jerry Bartlett, of Audubon, Iowa. He says that he was mistaken about all bees dying that were left out. Out of 150 colonies left out, in and around Coon Rapids, on the summer stands, there were less than 10 colonies alive. C. Johnson, Mr. Bartlett's neighbor, had 6 or 8 colonies left out, and he told me last week there was one left, and that was very weak. G. W. Dewey, of Bayard, Iowa, had 15 colonies, and lost all. Levering Bros., of Wiota, Iowa, left out 40 colonies, and wrote me they had lost all but 6, one-third being in chaff hives. J. Matz, of Guthrie Centre, lost 15 colonies. Wm Luckinbill had a total loss.

I left out 35, and have 7 left. I put 63 colonies in a cave, and took them out in the spring, and found four drone-layers. I

killed the queens, and doubled up the four with the other colonies, which left me 59 good colonies from the cave. Others that wintered their bees in repositories, as far as I can learn, wintered with small loss. This does not include those colonies cased with a 10-bushel box stuffed with straw and chaff to absorb the moisture and keep away the frost.

Reading Sam Wilson's predictions reminds me of an occurrence away back in the '60's, when about 40 miles southeast of Knoxville, Tenn. We were marching along one day, and passed a farm-house where the family were out viewing us. I was lurking behind the regiment, and passed a boy astride the fence. He turned to his mother and said, "Mam, them there Yankees ain't got any horns." "Hush, Sammy," his mother replied, "there is another Yankee coming there." "I don't care if there is," retorted Sammy, "he's no prophet like I is." I would like to know if he is the same Sam, of Cosby, Tenn.

THOS. JOHNSON.

Coon Rapids, Iowa, June 5, 1893.

White Clover Blossoming Scantily.

Judging by the indications at present, here in Central Illinois, our apicultural "cake" is dough again for this year. White clover, our standard source of supply, is blossoming very scantily, while there is a copious honey-dew. The upper side of the oak leaves is plastered with the sticky stuff, while the under side fairly breathes with aphides. All that is needed to enable the bees to carry immense quantities of it is damp weather.

The rains, last year, started a magnificent crop of clover, and I looked forward to a good honey harvest this year. A great deal of the clover was heaved out by the frost last winter, especially where it was not well protected by blue-grass.

We had a better bloom of white clover in July than in June last year. I hope it will be so this year. GEO. F. ROBBINS.

Mechanicsburg, Ills., June 9, 1893.

A Few Bee-Notes from Utah.

Reports and bee-notes from Utah have of late been conspicuous by their seeming absence; possibly the exceeding heavy winter losses have something to do with the spirits of the bee-men; the fact is that we are in the position that friend Root would call "blasted hopes," as we have lost from ⅓ to ¾ of what bees were put into winter quarters, notwithstanding the fact that one of the correspondents in the "Bee-Keepers' Guide," during last season, made the statement that the wintering of bees was no problem here in this region.

Wintering is a subject that I, for one, would be pleased to have more light on. If any of the correspondents of the BEE JOURNAL can furnish suggestions, that come from experience, on the cheapest and most successful way of wintering bees on the summer stands, in my opinion they will thus confer a favor on hundreds of bee-men who have been unsuccessful in wintering, because such is a very serious matter with numbers of us.

Our new foul brood law was tried in different sections last season, with varied success. The law itself is one that can be made to prove effective, providing inspectors are careful in performing their duties, but I notice that some are a little too careless, if I may use the term, in the way they go from apiary to apiary, and in my opinion at least, there is considerable danger of doing more harm than good in spreading the contagion. My point is that most of them in inspecting a diseased apiary are too liable to go to one not diseased without taking any, or but very little, precaution in disinfecting tools, etc., used in handling.

What bees we have left are beginning to breed up very well, considering the backward spring we have had, and prospects are favorable. JNO. C. SWANER.

Lehi, Utah, May 30, 1893.

Not Much Fruit-Bloom.

Almost everybody around here lost all the bees they had the past winter. I put 12 colonies into the cellar, and they came out all right, but it has been a long, cold, wet spring, and I lost one colony from spring dwindling. I have had no increase yet, but it looks as if they would swarm in a few days. There has not been much fruit-bloom here, and when fruit was in bloom, it was so cold the bees could not gather anything. HENRY BUSHBAUM.

Aredale, Iowa, June 12, 1893.

Bee-Keeping in New Hampshire, Etc.

Bee-keepers find that bees of late years don't begin to collect the honey they did 30 and 40 years ago. I think it is due in a measure, to a lack of white clover. I sow buckwheat, but I find but few bees on it. I asked a man who kept bees, why my bees did not feed on the buckwheat, and he said it was too near their hives. If it was a mile off, they would be there in great numbers.

Now, the question is, How far will bees go for their food? Mine have been baited by bee-hunters six miles off. Six years ago mine fought with a man's who kept several colonies of Italian bees. It was three miles to his place, and yet my old-fashioned black bees captured one of his colonies, and in two years my bees were many of them Italians, but now they are all blacks again. You ask if they were better than my old bees? No; only they were awfully ugly.

How far will a swarm of bees go to get into a tree? Mine have gone five miles, two miles of the way across the waters of Lake Winnipissaukee to an island. I observe that bees generally find a home near the water—low land—and why is it?

Why do bees like hogs, but can't bear sheep or horses? And some persons they will sting, while others can do anything with them and not get stung. Will some one please explain? J. L. HERSEY.

Centre Tuftonborough, N. H., June 5, 1893.